

City Surplus of Elk, Rams and Yaks Declines: High Bids Totaling ...

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By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS

The city's Department of Purchase, which usually deals in things like vitrified clay sewer pipe and asphalt paving mixture for cold patching, had an interval of mild hilarity yesterday when it auctioned off 34 surplus zoo animals for \$793.50.

The people who traffic in machine bolts, steel sign brackets, mineral dust and power weed sprayers handled the sale of a 1-year-old yak with dispatch—except that one official had to pause while his face turned crimson and he grew weak with laughter.

The animals were from the Central Park Zoo and the Children's Zoo, which have fewer stalls than animals. The sale included a buck rabbit, nine doe rabbits, a donkey, a burro and assorted rams, elk and guinea pigs.

Deputy Purchase Commissioner Gabriel A. Wechsler said: "The animals are living longer with miracle drugs and they're having more offspring in captivity, which makes for a surplus now and then."

Nine-year-old Sally Zanger of Holyoke, Mass., who got some public attention when she en-

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Accepted for 34 Left-Over

Animals From Zoos

tered a bid of \$32—half a year's savings—for the burro, did not win.

A Tarrytown family won with a bid of \$82. Mrs. Laurie Philip Bruenn said by telephone that the family had "quite a lot of acreage" and that the burro was for her three sons, Philip, 12 years old; Peter, 8, and Paul, 4.

Asked why her family had bid exactly \$82, Mrs. Bruenn said her husband knew the market on burros.

John Mulder of Lindenhurst, L. I., wrote that he had two ewes on his two-acre place. He said he wanted the surplus black ram in the hope that "a family could be in existence here in the spring."

Joseph M. Healey, Mayor of Kearny, N. J., went to the sale in search of an elk for the Kearny Riverbank Park. He had submitted a bid of \$125, but a few minutes after the first bid had been opened, Joseph Fennell of the Bridge-

port Zoological Society in Connecticut, handed over a check for \$175 on behalf of the Beard-sley Park Zoo, and he was announced as the winner.

Both men had bid for a 600-pound, 2-year-old female elk, ignoring a 3-year-old female elk, which was purchased for \$60 by Joseph Krajack of Frenchtown, N. J.

Mr. Krajack, who transports solvents and chemicals in tank trucks, runs his 60-acre Double J Bar K Ranch as a hobby. He said he planned to turn the elk "out to pasture with my two deer, three buffalo and my miniature zebu from India."

Mr. Fennell said he had bid for the younger elk because he thought she might be pregnant and might therefore be "a two-for-one" bargain. The Central Park Zoo, where the animals are now waiting to be claimed, said Mr. Fennell's hope was unfounded.

The doe rabbits went to Mrs. Ann Cass of Manhattan for \$25. Mrs. Cass said she represented a group of four persons in the "Cass Cuniculus Colloquium," a sort of rabbit round table. The name is "Latin for rabbit talk," she said.